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set forth and discussed herein the percentage of his life appropriated to this sentence is excessive."

What of the long years which Dens himself appropriated to his "opposition to law and orderly government," as Mr. DAUGHERTY phrases it? The document further says:

"A great lesson has been taught, not only to this country but to the world and future generations, by the [Supreme Court] decision in this case."

Then why nullify the lesson by turning Dens loose to mock the Administration, leer at the Government and defy the law?

Now for the last excuse which we are able to find in Mr. DAUGHERTY's recommendation:

"Undoubtedly also, in Dens's case, a far heavier sentence was pronounced than would have been imposed or justified upon another citizen for like utterances."

Mr. DAUGHERTY must be unfamiliar with the records of his own department to make such a statement as this.

In California INELL KENNEDY was sentenced to eleven years' imprisonment for advising soldiers to throw away their guns.

In Iowa D. T. BLODGETT received a twenty year sentence for attempting to cause disloyalty, insubordination and mutiny.

In Ohio M. L. NEHRING was sentenced to nineteen years in prison for violating the espionage act.

In California F. T. HOWNSTEN was condemned to ten years in prison for conspiracy to cause insubordination and disloyalty.

In New York three men received sentences of twenty years each and a woman a sentence of fifteen years for publishing seditious remarks.

In Kentucky two old men were convicted of expressing, in private conversation, sympathy for Germany. One's sentence was ten years, and the other's seven years and a fine of \$40,000.

In the case of D. T. BLODGETT, Mr. DAUGHERTY's predecessor in the Attorney-General's office recommended that the sentence of twenty years be commuted to eight years, and he made the comment that Dens, whose violation of the law he considered much more serious than BLODGETT's, "received a sentence of but ten years."

If the Daugherty recommendation explains anything it explains that the hue and cry may be used for release as well as for arrest. Dens had an army of letter writers and petitioners—and Dens is free.

But the wretched soldiers in whom Dens and his crew planted the seeds of insubordination are in prison.

Twenty-six Hours in the Air.

The exploit of the American aviators who beat the world's endurance record is more than a personal triumph. It shows the advance of flying in its most necessary department, for the quality more desirable than any other in planes is staying power.

Some new works by the most notable writers for the American theater did not long survive. BOTTIN TARKINGTON wrote "The Wren," which altogether lacked the qualities that make for enduring popularity in a play. But in "The Intimate Strangers" he showed that his hand had not lost its cunning.

With the talk of the public's strike against buying theater tickets there are plays drawing every week houses which would have been considered impossible ten years ago. So the lesson of the year, in spite of the murmurs of dissatisfaction from the impresarios, is encouraging. The public, in spite of the times, has ample funds to patronize what is best in the theater. But the public has set a high standard.

Anybody in Congress that proposes tariff duties on hides and oil must know that he is proposing what is not Republican doctrine, what has not been American practice and what the people of this country would not stand for.

There could not be a duty on hides without all of it and more going straight into the price of shoes for the whole American public, and the price of shoes is too high as it is for the American people to bear patiently. In not many lines do articles of consumption get to more of our 110,000,000 population, even to the children and babes, than shoes.

No material benefit could come to the farmers, about whom the proposers of a tariff on hides talk, because the farmers in large part, and even the bigger ranchmen, do not deal in hides. They sell their cattle on the hoof, regardless of the hides, and it is chiefly the packers buying the live stock who get anything out of the hides.

But with a duty on hides every farmer would have to pay more not only for the shoes of his family but for the harness and other leather equipment of his horses and vehicles.

As for a tariff on petroleum, it would not merely make oil and gasoline dearer to all consumers; it would hasten the day when the oil supply of this country would be exhausted and the American public would be at the mercy of foreign oil producers. When one of our very greatest industrial problems is how the nation's dwindling oil supply can be prolonged for even a comparatively few years, it would be an economic crime to bar out any of the foreign supply, since every gallon of oil from abroad is as good as a gallon added to our own domestic stock, now so much in danger of an early and complete drying up.

When there will not be domestic oil enough to go around among our own consumers in a short time, just as there is not now domestic lumber enough to go around among our own consumers, the American people can not have any more use for a Congressman who wants to stick tariff duties on foreign oil to keep it out than they can have use for a Congressman who wants to build a tariff wall to shut out foreign lumber when there is a housing shortage in this country which can be measured, as to the families in need of both better and cheaper houses, only in the millions.

To national legislators who have any regard for the needs of the public in the present and for the very industrial existence of the country in the future a duty on hides or oil or lumber is unthinkable.

The Men Who Passed.

A glance at the American obituary list of 1921 must remind serious men and women of the regularity with which death takes its toll among the distinguished. The human procession goes on unhaltingly, not because those who stepped out of the ranks were superfluous but in most cases because their part was so very well done. Their footprints remain on the path, a guide for the generations to follow. In some cases this year the passing of American leaders was the more to be regretted because it was untimely; but in the majority of instances the great men who left the line forever were such as had come to the ripeness of age and had taken full advantage of their years and opportunities.

In the roster of those upon whom life's curtain fell in the past year are the names of four men whose official achievements are memorable: EDWARD DOUGLASS WHITE, Chief Justice of the United States; PHILANDER C. KNOX, whose services as Attorney-General, as Secretary of State and as a leader in the Senate debate on the Versailles treaty are historic; FRANKLIN K. LANE, whose work at the head of the Interior Department was one of the bright spots of the Wilson Administration; and CHARLES J. BONAPARTE, who served its President Roosevelt's Cabinet as Secretary of the Navy and as Attorney-General.

The year's greatest loss in the death of Cardinal GIBBONS, a churchman and citizen whose noble qualities had for years commanded the respect of men and women of every belief. Another death in the Roman Catholic hierarchy was that of Bishop McDONNELL of Brooklyn. The Episcopal Church, which suffered the loss of Bishop BURCH last year, added the name of Dr. JOHN P. PETERS to its list of distinguished dead in the year 1921.

The realm of business and finance had to record the passing of two of its most notable captains, SAMUEL P. COLE, a lawyer endowed with a genius for industrial organization, and EDWARD C. CONVERSE, one of the most eminent bankers of his generation.

Journalism saw the last of some of its finest veterans. HENRY WATKINSON only a few days ago closed a career which had enlivened and illumined the whole country for more than a generation; and with him disappeared the last member of the last group of famous personal journalists. Of less wide province was the work of Colonel WILLIAM HESTER of the Brooklyn Daily Eagle, dean of the New York city publishers; yet Colonel HESTER was a newspaper man who had served two generations of readers and had been one of the best beloved figures in his profession. Other distinguished newspaper men and authors who died during the year were JOHN A. SLEIGHTER, General CHARLES H. TAYLOR, JOHN B. BOGART, TITUS MCKINNON COAN, MORRIS JASTROW, BERT LESTON TAYLOR and EDGAR SALTS.

From the legal ranks are missing well known figures like Judge PETER GROSSCUP and JOHN B. STANCHFIELD. The world of medicine lost Dr. MATTHEW D. MANN. In music's realm the voice of the incomparable CARUSO—who had come to be regarded as an American—was forever stilled; and DAVID BISPHAM too is among the departed.

Seven or eight of the names listed here were known in every American household. Others will be long remembered in the professions to which they added knowledge and distinction. Almost all were men not only to be mourned but to be proud of and made examples for youth. The majority of them had come to the fullness of years. Their great work was done. They had sown the seed and seen the harvest. Each year sees the passing of earnest men like them. They leave more than fame. They leave example, which, as BURKE said, is the school of mankind.

Wheat Farmers on the Job.

Next harvest the farmers of the middle West, nature permitting, will give the country almost as large a crop of wheat as that of last season. This puts an end to talk of a farmers' strike. Despite the scale down in prices for farm products, which reduced the total value of the nation's crops in 1921 to \$5,675,577,000, or \$3,400,000,000 lower than the year before, the Department of Agriculture reports that 44,293,000 acres have been sown to winter wheat, or only 1.2 per cent. less than the 44,847,000 acres similarly sown in the fall of 1920.

The area sown to rye is 5,154,000 acres, or 22.6 per cent. more than the 4,228,000 acres sown in 1920. The condition of the winter wheat on December 1 was only 76 per cent. of normal, compared with 87.9 a year ago and 89 per cent. the ten year average. But the less satisfactory condition figures are not the farmer's fault. If his pocketbook was squeezed so that he was unable to buy fertilizer the depreciation due to this cause must be charged against deflation. For the rest the weather is to blame.

The condition of the rye acreage is 92.2 per cent. of normal, better than the percentage of 90.5 a year ago and even better than the ten year average of 90.9 per cent.

The farmer has shown his willingness to forget hardships past and gone. He has no time to spend in crying over spilt milk. The country owes him its thanks.

An "old offender" has been sentenced by a Judge of the Court of General Sessions to forty years in Sing Sing. It will be interesting to see how soon some of those who are now calling for more severe punishments for criminals begin to work for this man's release because of the severity of his sentence.

The Riders of the Bells.

From Jersey's mist enfolded shores and far Westchester's hills
A burst of joyous melody the frothy mid-night fills
And old St. Paul's and Trinity above the city wave
The English language is a wonder, for it is
New Year's Eve.

In every bell a spirit rides the vibrant tongue and flings
A message to the listening world each time it swings and rings—
Love, Hope and Faith and Charity, Industry, Peace, Good Times
Are speaking to us in the clear resonance of the chimes.

"Make this a record year," they say, "of noble thoughts and deeds
And kindly words and honest work—for only work succeeds.
The broken wine shall roar again, the fallen fortune rise,
These are the precious promises we hear you from the skies."

From Jersey shores, Westchester hills and venerable St. Paul's,
And old historic Trinity the silver music falls,
The voices of the spirit band that in the metal dwells
And ushers in the glad New Year, the riders of the bells.

MINNA IRVING.

Thanks From Service Men.

For Christmas Wreaths on Graves of Our Unknown Dead in Europe.

TO THE NEW YORK HERALD: One word of congratulation. It was with a thankful heart and pride that we read your issue of December 24, based on the graves "over there" would be decorated on Christmas Day by your good paper.

Just such thoughts as these make the world a better world. Well done, comrades; we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

GEORGE W. BUCK,
Major Ninety-fourth Aerial Squadron, A. E. F.

JOSEPH J. SMITH,
Lieut. Captain of 114th Infantry, Ringwood, N. J., December 30.

Subway Train Connections.

Why Passengers Are Sometimes Delayed at Nevins Street Station.

TO THE NEW YORK HERALD: Why is it that a Seventh Avenue train of the Interborough subway is kept waiting at the Nevins street station with doors wide open only just long enough for a Lexington Avenue train to come almost to a stop on the opposite side of the platform? By this action thousands of persons who use Nevins street station as a transferring point from the Lexington Avenue trains to the Seventh Avenue trains lose an average of fifteen minutes each night, besides unnecessary keeping the platform in an exceedingly crowded condition.

It is certainly not inconvenient to the operating schedule of the railroad if the supervisor of the station would wait until the passengers had transferred from one train to the other before ringing the bell for the dispatch of the Seventh Avenue train rather than ringing the bell just before the doors of the Lexington Avenue train opened, the difference only being about a minute at the most.

A. R. BROOKLYN, December 30.

It is a fact that at times a train will be leaving Nevins street, east bound, just as a Lexington Avenue train pulls into the station, but it is not an accident. The eastbound train being held for the purpose. It is due to the fact that the signal arrangement on No. 2 track at Nevins street—used by Lexington Avenue trains—permits trains to follow closely one another in entering the station. Occasionally a train will enter on this track, unload its passengers and proceed, the passengers bound for points beyond boarding the eastbound train on the other track, and before this transfer has been completed and the eastbound train has left a second train on the No. 2 track will be pulling into the station. If passengers on the second train see the train on the other track in the act of closing the doors it may give them the impression that the train is about to leave, and they will hold long enough to avoid connection. This condition occurs, however, only at times when there is a gap in either the eastbound or the westbound service, and in such cases to hold a train for a connection would only mean added delay and thus discommodate a great number of passengers.

The Case of Dens.

His Release Permits Him to Sow More Seeds of Sedition.

TO THE NEW YORK HERALD: You deserve the highest commendation for your recent editorial article entitled "The Release of Dens." I note that Dens is already making the same statements for which he was imprisoned, and while we are not at war now he is sowing seed which will breed opposition to the Government in the future should it ever be necessary again to defend this glorious country.

By the judiciary the release of Dens is a case of suspended sentences, light fines, short sentences and later pardons has made the criminal class fearless. Judges ought to be brought to see that this treatment is going to bring results which some day will have to be met in a way more serious than would be the case if crime were curbed now.

READER.
New York, December 30.

Earth Slowing Down or Moon's Speeding

Tidal Friction in Irish Channel and Bering Sea Blamed by Yale Professor for Longer Days.

SWARTHMORE, Pa., Dec. 30. (Associated Press).—Something is wrong with the solar system, Dr. Ernest W. Brown, head of the mathematics department of Yale, told members of the American Astronomical Society to-day at Swarthmore College. Either the earth's rate of rotation is slowing down or the moon is moving faster. This conclusion was reached by Prof. Brown when he observed that the days are becoming longer.

This fact, long suspected and now verified beyond reasonable doubt, the Yale mathematician declared, need not be taken into account in the daily life of laymen because it amounts to less than one thousandth of a second a year.

However, he declared, it was decidedly annoying to astronomers, who based their calculations on the regularity of the various units of the solar system. He said that he had spent years mapping the course of the moon for several hundred years, and had compiled a table of the moon's orbit. But apparently the moon was not following the schedule and he threw away his mass of investigations.

The trouble, he added, is not with the moon but with the earth, which scientists use as a clock. Tidal friction on the earth, he said, is pulling the earth's rotation on its axis, and this accounts for the loss of a second every thousand years.

Possibilities of classifying tens of thousands of stars, he said, are based on their position, distance from the earth, velocity and other things of interest to astronomical science were presented in two papers by H. N. Russell, director of the Mount Wilson Observatory, and Charles E. St. John, director of the Mount Wilson Observatory in California, both of whom said that by comparison of the spectrum lines of an unknown star with those of known stars, much data has been collected, fairly accurate conclusions can be drawn. Between 1,500 and 2,000 stars have been "measured" at Mount Wilson Observatory by this system.

NOTABLES TO SAIL ON THE OLYMPIC TO-DAY

Earl and Countess Granard Among the Passengers.

Many persons of note will be among the midwinter seagoers leaving for England to-day by the White Star liner Olympic, and among them will be Mrs. George W. Cavendish-Bentinck, her nephew and niece, Viscount Forbes, the Earl and Countess of Granard, and the children of the latter, Lady Morda and Lady Ellen Forbes. For several weeks they have been the guests of Mr. Ogden Mills, the father of Lady Granard and the brother-in-law of Mrs. Cavendish-Bentinck.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Damrosch will be among the passengers, as will as Mr. and Mrs. Oakleigh Thorne and their daughter, Mrs. Thorne Carle; Mr. and Mrs. John Magee, Mr. Eugene S. Reynard, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick H. Allen, who are en route to Paris to pass several weeks with relatives there; Sir Ashley Shirley Benn and Lady Benn, Sir William C. Cross, Bart.; Marquis du Murruetta, Lady Evans and Miss Evans, Mr. Archibald B. Roosevelt, Baron and Baroness Rosenkrantz, who passed the early winter at Hot Springs, Va., and Mrs. Dunlop Campbell, who is en route to Europe via Campbell of Ross. Mrs. Campbell was Miss Ethel H. Waterbury and had passed several weeks with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John H. Waterbury of Fairfield House, Coventry, N. C.

Others going over by the Olympic are:

The Temptress.

You tempt me with a red leaf,
You tempt me with a red bird;
I follow, follow, follow,
And yet I know I heard
A warning from the north wind,
A whisper in the air,
"Turn, turn, turn, turn,
Do not follow there!"

I think, why am I fearful?
My song is like a bell . . .
Still there is a something
The trees have tried to tell.

You tempt me with a red leaf,
And yet my heart must know,
I shall lie to-morrow
Underneath the snow . . .

ARIEGAL W. CHESBORN.

Daily Calendar

THE WEATHER.

For Eastern New York—Unsettled and warmer to-day, with rain or snow this afternoon or to-night; to-morrow cloudy and colder; to-night and to-morrow shifting to northwest and reaching gale force late to-night or to-morrow morning.

For New Jersey—Unsettled and warmer to-day, followed by light rain in the south and rain or snow in the north portion to-night; to-morrow partly cloudy and colder; increasing southerly winds.

For Northern New England—Increasing clouds and warmer to-day, followed by light rain or snow to-night; to-morrow cloudy and colder; increasing southerly winds.

For Western New York—Rain or snow and warmer to-day, to-morrow cloudy and much colder, probably snow flurries; south and southeast shifting to west gales.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—A storm of moderate intensity will contrast south of New England to-night moving slowly northeastward, and another was control over eastern Michigan to-day and to-night. In the latter there was a decided rise in pressure to-day over the northern plains states, the northern Rocky Mountain states, and the northern Great Plains states, while the temperature was again falling to-night in the North-west.

The Minnesota storm will move rapidly eastward and will contrast south of New England to-night moving slowly northeastward, and another was control over eastern Michigan to-day and to-night. In the latter there was a decided rise in pressure to-day over the northern plains states, the northern Rocky Mountain states, and the northern Great Plains states, while the temperature was again falling to-night in the North-west.

Observations at United States Weather Bureau stations, taken at 8 P. M. yesterday, twenty-five miles from New York city.

Stations. High-Low. Bar. Rain. Wind. Weather.

Albany 78 42 29.94 . . . Clear
Atlantic City 78 42 29.94 . . . Clear
Baltimore 78 42 29.94 . . . Clear
Boston 78 42 29.94 . . . Clear
Buffalo 78 42 29.94 . . . Clear
Chicago 78 42 29.94 . . . Clear
Cleveland 78 42 29.94 . . . Clear
Denver 78 42 29.94 . . . Clear
Detroit 78 42 29.94 . . . Clear
Galveston 78 42 29.94 . . . Clear
Havana 78 42 29.94 . . . Clear
Jacksonville 78 42 29.94 . . . Clear
Kansas City 78 42 29.94 . . . Clear
Los Angeles 78 42 29.94 . . . Clear
Milwaukee 78 42 29.94 . . . Clear
New Orleans